

U.S. Department of Justice



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

86 Chambers Street
New York, New York 10007

August 17, 2023

BY ECF

Honorable Lewis A. Kaplan
Daniel Patrick Moynihan
United States Courthouse
500 Pearl St.
New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: *MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, et al., v. U.S. Dep’t of Health and Human Services, et al.*, 21 Civ. 475 (LAK)

Dear Judge Kaplan:

This Office represents the defendant federal agencies and government officials sued in their official capacities (together, the “government”) in this action. I write jointly with the plaintiffs’ counsel to provide a status update and to respectfully request an extension of the existing stay of all proceedings.

Since the stay was last extended, the government has received public comments on its notice of proposed rulemaking. *See Partnerships With Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations*, 88 Fed. Reg. 2395 (Jan. 13, 2023), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/01/13/2022-28376/partnerships-with-faith-based-and-neighborhood-organizations>.¹ The government anticipates publishing a final rule by January 2024. *See* <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202304&RIN=0503-AA73>.

In light of these developments, the parties respectfully request that the current stay of all proceedings, *see* ECF Nos. 72, 76, 78, 80, be extended from August 17, 2023, through and including January 31, 2024. The parties further propose that they file a status report by the same date that proposes any next steps in the litigation.

¹ A separate page for each agency with posted public comments is also on regulations.gov. For example, the Department of Justice page is at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/DOJ-OAG-2023-0002-0001>.

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We thank the Court for its attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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